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REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 14 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the declaration of participants in the International Conference on Problems of Nuclear Weapon Non-Proliferation, which was held from 8 to 12 September 1997 in Almaty and Kurchatov, Kazakhstan, under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, N. A. Nazarbaev (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 14 and 71.

(Signed) Akmaral Kh. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the
United Nations

ANNEX

[Original: English and Russian]

Declaration of participants of the International Conference on Problems of Nuclear Weapon Non-Proliferation

The International Conference on Problems of Nuclear Weapon Non-Proliferation was held in Almaty and Kurchatov (Kazakhstan) from 8 to 12 September 1997. Representatives of many countries took part in the Conference including the Russian Federation, the United States of America, France, Sweden and others. Political and technical issues related to assurance of a non-proliferation regime and problems of converting former nuclear test sites and their infrastructure were discussed. In addition, questions related to the creation of a nuclear-free zone in Central Asia were considered. A separate section was devoted to problems of radiation safety and rehabilitation of the former test site territory.

The Conference coincided with the 50 year anniversary of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test Site which was closed by Decree of the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbaev in 1992 after a long period of operation. The Republic of Kazakhstan was a part of a nuclear weapon State. Since Independence the Republic has firmly renounced all work connected with the development of nuclear weapons and widely supports the efforts of the world community in strengthening the non-proliferation regime. It is symbolic that the Conference was held in the city of Kurchatov which served as centre of the former test site and is now the home of the National Nuclear Centre of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The Centre conducts research on exclusively peaceful applications of nuclear energy.

This year, the world community is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the International Atomic Energy Agency. We are all aware of the very important role of the International Atomic Energy Agency in assuring non-proliferation. We highly value the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency in strengthening the regime as well as its activities in increasing the efficiency of international safeguards of peaceful nuclear activity.

Our Conference gathered many scientists who worked in the past on military nuclear programme and their experience can be used, and is already being used to strengthen the efficiency of measures to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation. Reports were presented by well-known experts in the field of non-proliferation from different countries and organizations. The Conference gave experts with different approaches to solving proliferation problems, the opportunity to exchange their views, to share experience of different countries and international organizations directed to strengthening the non-proliferation regime. Conversion problems and the issue of test sites and the rehabilitation with which Kazakhstan is faced are very important to countries that are converting their nuclear military programmes.

The participants hope that the Conference contributed significantly to the understanding of the problems related to strengthening non-proliferation and hope that progress was achieved in mutual understanding between the participating countries. We, the Conference participants, would like to express our thanks to the International Atomic Energy Agency for its noble efforts and wish further success in its activities during its 40th anniversary year and in the years to come.